Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

blunders are simply wonderful. For fair examples, picked up at random :—" Notice of a collection of Bird skins from Hayti," and "Ornithology of the Bermudas" are placed under Australia and Oceanica! " Ueber die Aptenodytes und Diomedeaarten *Süd-Georgiens* " under America septentrionalis! " List of birds, etc., of the District of Columbia " under America centralis! Finally, to endorse the words of a late reviewer, " misprints abound to such an extent, that the work reads not unlike first proofs just issued from the hands of a careless printer."

The defects of the work are glaring, and of the peculiarly exasperating nature that detains the most lenient critic against his will; but we must not allow them to blind us to the value of Dr. Giebel's labors, which they may overshadow but cannot eclipse. —E. C.

## BOTANY.

Acclimatization of Plants.—In the " Archives des Sciences Physiques et Naturelles" of Geneva for June, Alph. De Candolle details a series of investigations of the question whether the habits of plants are changed by the action of the climate acting through a succession of generations. For this purpose he obtained seeds of plants which are widely dispersed over Europe from different localities, Edinburgh, Moscow, Montpellier and Palermo, and sowed them simultaneously and under similar conditions at Geneva. The general results of a somewhat limited series of experiments were that the seeds, obtained from the more northern localities, germinated on the whole somewhat earlier than those derived from more southern latitudes, and were also rather more rapid in arriving at maturity. The difference was still more observable in the second generation; but sufficient variation was shown in the seeds obtained from the same locality to make the results of but small value without a much larger series of observations.—A. W. B.

Effect of the Eruption of Vesuvius on Vegetation.—An interesting paper appears in the " Accademia delle Scienze Fisiche e Matematiche" of Naples, by G. A. Pasquale, on the effects of the recent eruption of Vesuvius on the plants in the neighborhood. The newest vegetation has suffered from contact with the ashes, though the effect has been neither a scorching nor drying up. The action has not been a mechanical one; for a mere closing of the pores of the epidermis could not have caused death in so short a time. The closing of the pores and stomata is undoubtedly a secondary cause of death, but only after the lapse of some days. No change was observed similar to that produced by the vapor of boiling water. The scorching action of a high, dry temperature occurs only in the immediate vicinity of the volcano. Neither an acid nor alkaline reaction is shown by any change of color in the flowers or leaves, except a few instances of a change to blue of rose, orange, or violet colored organs, which might be attributed rather to an alkaline than an acid reaction; but these are few and doubtful. Many phenomena concur in pointing to chloride of sodium as the chief agent in the destruction of vegetable tissue. The salt was present in sufficient quantity in the falling ashes to be readily discernible to the sight, and is also met with as an efflorescence in the ashy soil.—A. W. B.

## ZOOLOGY.

CALCULI FROM THE STOMACH OF A HORSE.—A singular and interesting collection of so-called "stones" was recently taken from the intestines of a horse in North Ferrisburg, Vermont. I did not see the animal, but am told that the largest calculus had broken through the large intestine, while the rest were lying loose in its cavity. There was in all, as nearly as I can ascertain, about a pint of the calculi, of which the largest and twelve other entire specimens are before me, and fragments of three or four others. Only the largest is regular in form. This is almost perfectly spherical, being nine and a quarter inches in circumference and 2.9453 inches in diameter, and its weight is eleven Troy ounces or 364.45 grammes. The rest are very much smaller and quite irregular in form, little less so than any chance handful of pebbles, and as they are smaller they are less regular. The larger two, excepting the large one just mentioned, though irregular, approach a spherical form with two opposite sides considerably flattened, the circumferences being respectively $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches and $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in one direction and three inches and $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches in the other, and the diameters .93 and .96 inch for the longer and .63 and .68 inch for the shorter. The rest are all more or less inferior to these in size and approach a pyramidal form, the smallest being most definitely of this form with each side of a different size, the dis-